1. (Amended) A multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding method, including the steps of

selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and

encoding/decoding each signal block by using a codebook having said selected codebook identification.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, including the steps of

providing several sets of codebooks;

determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;

selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification in the determined set utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and

encoding/decoding each signal block by using a codebcok from said determined set having said selected codebook identification.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, including the steps of

selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type;

providing several sets of codebooks;

determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters; and

encoding/decoding each signal block by using a codebook from said determined set having said selected codebook identification.

12. (Amended) A multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoder/decoder, including

a codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and

means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using a codebook having said selected codebook identification.

13. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, including

several sets of codebooks;

a set selector for determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of codebooks, based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters;

a codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification in the determined set utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type; and

means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using a codebook from said determined set having said selected codebook identification.

14. (Amended) The encoder/decoder of claim 12, including

a codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type;

several sets of codebooks;

a set selector for determining, for each signal block, a corresponding set of codebooks based on previously determined values of other signal block characterizing parameters; and

means for encoding/decoding each signal block by using a codebook from said determined set having said selected codebook identification.

19. (Amended) A codebook selection method for multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding, including the step of:

selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type.

22. (Amended) A codebook selection apparatus for multi-codebook fixed bitrate CELP signal block encoding/decoding, including:

a codebook selector for selecting, for each signal block, a corresponding codebook identification utilizing a deterministic selection procedure that is independent of signal type.